DOE F 1325.8 e Electronic Form Approved by CGIR - 01/20/95
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United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: 2/27/98

REPLY TO ATTN OF: ECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS, Project No. 9600700

TO: Thomas C. McKinney - ECN-4
NEPA Compliance Officer

Proposed Action: Upper Salmon River Diversion Project (Phase II)

Budget No.: F3477 **NEPA Tracking System No.:** 00284

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):
1.2 Prohibit Further Channelization, 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams, 1.9 Structural Bank Protection Using Bioengineering Methods, 1.14 Reduce Scour and Deposition at Hydraulic Structures, 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement---Fishways, 4.1 Irrigation Water Management, 4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation, 4.9 Water Conveyance: Ditch and Canal Lining, 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline, 4.17 Limit Interwatershed Diversions and Returns, 4.18 Purchase/Negotiate Water Right, 4.22 Avoid Excess Irrigation Flows, 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens, 4.25 Consolidate/Replace Irrigation Diversion Dams

Location: Salmon, ID, Custer County

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Custer County Soil and Water Conservation District (SCD) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Description of the Proposed Action: The primary objective of this project is to implement actions that can improve passage of salmon and steelhead (both juveniles and adults) plus resident fish through six mile reach of the Salmon River near the town of Challis. In addition, this project would improve irrigation efficiency and conservation which would decrease irrigation water demand from the Salmon River. This would be done by converting the Laverty & Cutler Ranches irrigation practices from flood to sprinklers and consolidating the Hammond/Leaton canal and Chester pump into the Gini canal. All four diversions in the project area are rock wing dam structures that are generally reconstructed each spring (following runoff). Reconstruction of the rock wings is also sometimes needed during the summer following washouts caused by heavy thunderstorms. Heavy power equipment is used in the river to rearrange granular material and rocks to reform the rock wings to raise

the water level high enough so that the water flows through the various canal headgates. Flow control at the headgates is limited; therefore, flow through the headgates into the canals increases or decreases with fluctuations in river flow.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by the Buerau of Reclamation and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

As required by Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act, a list was obtained of threatened, endangered, and candidate plant and animal species that may occur in the project area. Consultation was initiated with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). A biological assessment (BA) was prepared and sent to both the USFWS and NMFS. The USFWS concurred with the determination that the project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the bull trout, Ute Ladies'-tresses, peregrine falcon or bald eagle. The NMFS also concurred with BOR's determination that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect listed Snake River spring/summer chinook and sockeye salmon, Snake River steelhead, and designated critical habitat.

A Cultural Resources Survey of the project area was conducted in January 1997. A prehistoric lithic scatter was observed during the survey on the Laverty property near where proposed irrigation pipelines would be located. The lithic scatter recorded could be an eligible property for the National Register. The proposed pipeline on the Laverty ranch would need to be relocated to avoid affecting the cultural resource finding. Once a new design is made for the pipeline to avoid the lithic scatter and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office approves, construction can begin on the Laverty ranch.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.7, 7.8G, 7.8H, and 7.10 of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The attached Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

_____
Eric N. Powers
ECN Project Lead
Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group

Concur:

_____
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: _____

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist
Cultural Resources Survey
Concurrence Letter from USFWS
Concurrence Letter from NMFS

cc:
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L. Croff - ECP-4
N. Weintraub - ECN-4
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ATTACHMENT

This supplement analysis is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of the following conditions:

An Archeological survey is completed and a prehistoric lithic scatter was observed during the survey on the Laverty ranch property where BOR originally proposed to bury the irrigation pipe (see Figure 1 of the Cultural Resources Report). With the exception of this site, the proposed construction associated with the Upper Salmon River Diversion Consolidation Project, Phase II may take place without further regard to cultural resources. However, no work may occur on the Laverty ranch property until a new irrigation pipe layout design has been made and approved by BPA. The proposed irrigation pipe must not impact the observed prehistoric lithic scatter.